

Rishworth Urban Sanitary District.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT, FOR THE YEAR 1903.

GENTLEMEN,

I respectfully beg to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1903.

During the year there have been no epidemics of notifiable Infectious Disease. Only two cases of Infectious Disease have been reported, viz.:—One case of Erysipelas which ended fatally, and one case of Enteric Fever. The origin of this latter case could not be traced, and does not seem to have been caused through contamination of the water used for drinking purposes.

During the latter part of the summer whooping cough was prevalent and one death occurred from this complaint.

The number of Births in the district were 25, a decrease of 3 on the Births in 1902, and of 4 on the average number of Births for the last 10 years. The birth-rate for England and Wales for 1903 was 28·4, the lowest rate recorded. The birth-rate for Rishworth on an estimated population of 915 is 27·2.

The Deaths numbered 14, the same as last year, and the rate per 1,000 is 15·5. This is a low death-rate, and in keeping with the low general death-rate of the country, which was 15·4 per 1,000 of the population. This like the birth-rate is a record. Of the 14 deaths within the district, 3 were under one year of age, and 3 were over 65 years of age. It is gratifying to report that no deaths were due to Tuberculosis. 3 deaths occurred from Pheumonia.

During the year, the Public Water Supply has been considerably advanced, the mains have been laid, and a tank lined with wood, capable of holding an estimated 7 days supply has been constructed at the site mentioned in my last report. Already, some 30 houses in the district have been connected to the mains; also the Day School, which has suffered for sometime from lack of a pure water for drinking purposes. The pressure at the time of my last inspection at the School was constant, and the water of a good colour. It is to be hoped that all houses which have an insufficient supply of good drinking water will be connected as far as practicable, and make use of this Public Supply.

There have been no New Factories or Workshops built in the district and my remarks in my last report on the Factories and Workshops' Act of 1901, hold good.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. B. MERCER, M.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

